

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prior prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 18-33 have been entered for consideration by the Examiner.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claims 1. – 17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A device for malting grains comprising:

a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;

air-permeable supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;

air flow paths associated with each story composed of supply channels, displacement elements and discharge channels, wherein an air flow path for a respective story comprises air flow through a respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements and a respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge path; and

at least one central opening, through which the air flow path for the respective story flows, arranged within the respective story.

19. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements for conditioning air to be supplied to the grain.

20. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the discharge channel empties at least one of into an underpressure chamber and through an opening into an outside environment.

21. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising a central floor opening through at least one of respective story floors delineating the respective story, wherein the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel are arranged to abut each other as they extend through the central floor opening.

22. (New) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the central floor opening is circular.

23. (New) The device in accordance with claim 22, wherein at least one of the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel has an at least primarily segmented cross-section at the at least one central floor opening.

24. (New) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 10 meters in diameter.

25. (New) The device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 12 meters in diameter.

26. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein each supporting floor is annular with an interior diameter of at least 10 meters.

27. (New) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interior diameter for each supporting floor is at least 12 meters.

28. (New) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor has a radial span of at least 7 meters between the interior diameter and an exterior diameter.

29. (New) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor is rotatable around a rotational axis extending through a central axis of the annular shape.

30. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located below a lowermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

31. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located above an uppermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

32. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located within an outer periphery of the story floors for the grain to be germinated.

33. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising another supporting floor arranged to support germinated grain to be dried and located below a lowermost supporting floor to support the grain to be germinated.

34. (New) The device in accordance with claim 33, wherein the another supporting floor to support the germinated grain to be dried has dimensions similar to those of the supporting floors to support the grain to be germinated.

35. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are air permeable.

36. (New) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are perforated.

37. (New) A method for malting grains in a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors, comprising:

arranging grain to be germinated on a respective air-permeable supporting floor associated with at least one of the plurality of stories;

guiding air through flow paths associated with the at least one of the plurality of stories composed a respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements and the respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge path; and

guiding the flow path through at least one central opening arranged within the one of the plurality of stories.